

Shoes in Shakespeare.

The famed dramatist makes frequent allusions by name to articles of footwear in his plays and in such ways as to throw some light on the contemporaneous customs and fashions of the periods. Shoes and boots by name occur in all the plays except four, and in such variety of reference and illustration as to make the study both pleasant and profitable. We have selected some of these references with this end in view, taking the plays *seriatim*:

In the *Tempest*, the deformed slave, Caliban, third scene, second act, offers to kiss the *Shoe* of Stephano in token of subservience. In a preceding act he had offered to kiss his foot, leaving the conclusion that Stephano had recovered his footwear from the wreck in which he had been cast on the island.

In the *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, 1st act and scene, the height or depth of love is by respective measurement, that of boots and shoes; he who was over boots being deeper in love than he that was only shoe deep. The dialogue follows with puns upon boots, in which as in merely verbal wit the great dramatist is only, but nearly always weak. In the 3d act and scene the droll servant, Launce, to illustrate an affecting scene at parting, sets up different objects for the various members of his family among others his right and left shoe, for his father and mother, finding it difficult however to determine which is which.

In *Midsummer's Night Dream* the depth of murder is illustrated as being "over shoes in blood."

In *Love's Labor Lost*, the fantastical Armado who has fallen in love with Jaquenetta, makes comparison of baseness where she walked. "I do love" he says "the very ground which is base, where her shoe which is baser, guided by her foot which is basest doth tread."

As *You Like It*, 3d act and scene represents the piquant Rosalind designating the "shoe untied," as one of the symptoms of being in love.

"Creaking my shoes on the plain masonry," is the expression used in *All's Well That Ends Well*, to indicate the process of walking backward and forward in meditation.

The drunken tinker Christopher Sly, in *Taming the Shrew*, enumerates the deficiencies of his wardrobe and says, "I have more feet than shoes, or such shoes as my toes look through the over leather."

The color of shoes in olden times is indicated in the *Comedy of Errors*, 3d act and 2nd scene, where one of the Dromios describes the kitchen maid who had in an amatory way taken forcible possession of him.

"What complexion is she of?" asks his master. "Swarthy, like my shoes," he answers, "but her face not so clean kept." The period antedated black leather and blacking, the russet tan being the color.

A cobbler in the rabble at the opening of *Julius Caesar* when interrogated as to his occupation, answers with wit and boasting, "I am indeed sir, a surgeon to old shoes. When they are in great danger I recover them. As proper men as ever trod on neat leather have gone on my handiwork." But he makes an

execrable pun on one of the tools of his trade when he adds, "I meddle with no tradesman's matters nor with women's matters, but with awl."

Dancing shoes were specialties in old times as now. In *Romeo and Juliet*, when the lovesick Romeo was invited to dance he declined, saying: "You have dancing shoes with nimble soles, I have a soul of lead," etc., the pun being a little better than the average.

In regard to the fashion of shoes worn by players, or at theatrical performances, they are described in *Hamlet's* third act and scene, as "slashed shoes ornamented with Provencal roses."

The philosophic Prince himself gives prominence to the shoes as an article when deploring the indecent haste of his mother in marrying so soon after his father's death. He does not speak of the brief sad interval as one too short for the fashion of her bonnet or gown: to have undergone a change or her gloves to have been worn out. His plaintive cry is,

Or ere those shoes were old
With which she followed my poor father's body
Like Niobe all tears. — *Leather Gazette*.

Montreal Trade Notes.

The general distributive movement of all descriptions of merchandise shows a fair consumptive demand in progress, and taking into consideration that we are now in the midsummer when business is generally very quiet a very fair business is being done. Preparations are being made for a fairly active Fall business, without, however, the expectation of any great boom.

GRAIN AND FLOUR.

Actual business on spot has continued moderate, with the market consequently quiet in expression. In wheat there was nothing doing and a lot of 20,000 bushels No. 2 spring offered at 85c failed to elicit a bid acceptable to the seller. Local demand for flour has continued good, and a fair distribution was made to-day at about former prices, but there was no new feature to note. Sales of five cars of Manitoba strong bakers' were made at \$4.50.

CHEESE.

In this market there seemed to be little excitement, but the feeling was firm at the advance. There was no pressure to sell and the views of some holders were fixed at 8½c but not realized. Eight cents was paid, however, for several lots of finest, and transactions were made at 8½c, with French finest at 7½c to 7½c.

BUTTER.

More animation was noticeable in the butter market, as there seemed to be a good disposition to buy creamery at full former prices. In fact, the market has developed a firmer tone, and it was reported that up to 19c had been paid in the country, which, if confirmed, will stiffen prices right. Exporters were free buyers at 18c and a shade over, but it is doubtful if any desirable goods can be obtained for less than 18½c to 19c. Dairy butter was neglected and dull.

CANNED GOODS.

There is nothing new to report except a great scarcity of all kinds of fruits and vegetables. The line of canned goods in good supply is mackerel. British Columbia salmon is scarce. — *Gazette*.

Home Markets.

Hon. William Windon, of Minnesota, delivered an address lately on the subject of the relations of capital and labor. In the course of it he furnished the following relative to the value of home markets compared with foreign markets:

Ninety-eight per cent. of our manufactured articles, and 92 per cent. of our agricultural products (except cotton) are consumed in this country. It is therefore of the highest importance that our home markets be fostered and protected as far as possible in the interest of home labor. In 1882 we imported from the farms and workshops of foreign countries products of which only ten varieties amounted to \$189,000,000. Every one of these articles could have been produced at home as well as abroad. Does not this look as if the country was suffering from lack of proper distribution, rather than from "over-production?" If we could have produced and sold these \$189,000,000 which we imported and consumed it would have given employment, at \$600 a year, to 300,000 unemployed people, and they, in turn, would have expended \$189,000,000 in the comforts and necessities, and thereby would have given employment to as many more, and so on. If we could consume at home the other 8 per cent. of our agricultural products, and produce the articles with which to pay for them, labor would receive large additional employment and better rewards, and farm products would command higher prices. The value and extent of our home markets may be better appreciated by a single comparison. In 1880 we consumed about ten billion dollars' worth of agricultural and manufactured products— an amount equal to the entire accumulated wealth, real and personal, of Italy, one and a half times the wealth of Spain; and three times the wealth of Sweden and Norway. "Home markets for home labor" is the key to our prosperity.

A City of Rich Dealers.

"Probably the richest city for its size in the world is Cheyenne City, Wyoming, the home of the cattle kings," said Charles Jennings, a huge sized western man from that territory at the Union Depot. "The population of the city is only 5,000, and it has about 250 business houses, counting the cattle company's offices, which number sixty-six."

"How much money is there invested in cattle in Cheyenne City?" asked the reporter.

"To my knowledge there is \$32,500,000 in that branch of my business alone."

"All American, I suppose?"

"No, a great deal of that amount is English investments. I know at least \$5,000,000, and there may be a great deal more I know nothing of. The Swan Land and Cattle company's paid in capital is £750,000, and then there is the Powder River Cattle company, with a capital stock of \$1,500,000, the Duke of Manchester being the chairman of the company, thus showing the large amount of stock held and controlled by English capitalists."

"How about other kinds of business?"

"Do you know it seems to me that there is not a poor person in the whole town. If there is, they are very few. There is about as much in